

ANNOTATED AGENDA

Update re: COVID-19 with MNO, MNS and MNA

September 28, 2020

2:00-3:30pm EST (1.5 hours)

Dial-in Information: 1-877-413-4781 or local 613-960-7510 Conference ID: 9513647

NOTE:

- Purpose of today's call:
 - The Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO), the Métis Nation of Saskatchewan (MNS) and the Métis Nation of Alberta (MNA) will meet with Government of Canada officials via teleconference. The last meeting with this group was on September 14, 2020.
 - Federal partners, including PHAC, will share an update on federal actions related to COVID-19 and MNO, MNS and MNA will share an overview of plans and pressures for their respective nations.

Health Portfolio Participation:

- Kerry Robinson, PHAC
- Tasha Stefanis, HC
- Guest presenters (Erin Henry and Matthew Tunis), CIRID, PHAC

PHAC SITUATIONAL BRIEFING/UPDATE – KERRY ROBINSON

(taken from Health and Allied Health Sectors annotated agenda)

1. Domestic Update (September 23) For Reference

- 146,663 cases (*responsive only: 9,234 deaths*).
- 86.5% of people have now recovered.
- Labs across Canada have tested 6,766,982 people for COVID-19 to date. On average, 47,111 people were tested daily over last week with 1.4% testing positive.

From Sept CPHO Statements/Pressers:

- The ongoing increase in the national daily case counts is an indicator of accelerated epidemic growth. This situation increases the likelihood that we could lose the ability to keep COVID-19 cases at manageable levels for our health systems.
- The fact is public health authorities can't solve this on their own, it will take all of us working together to bring things back to a safer slow burn. Now is the time for Canadians to redouble their efforts, with personal precautions that will slow the spread of the virus.
- Living with COVID-19 is about achieving a balance. This balance will allow us to enjoy the spaces and services that have re-opened thanks to our hard work, while at the same time protecting our communities and loved ones. We've come too far and lost too much to give up

now. Let's reconfirm our commitment to work together and redouble our efforts to keep COVID-19 at manageable levels.

2. School Re-opening & Outbreaks (from SAC Sept 3)

- At SAC, we are sharing information and approaches to support jurisdictions in addressing respiratory illness and COVID-19 in schools
 - This includes discussions on symptom screening/management of respiratory illness in school settings, outbreak definitions and management, and testing approaches in the context of schools.
 - PHAC is currently finalizing outbreak investigation guidance for school settings, which is valuable to support consistent data collection and knowledge generation on transmission in school settings.

3. Testing Approaches

- SAC is continuing to advance work on testing in the context of demand for testing, results of asymptomatic testing in low prevalence settings and emerging technology.
 - The most recent guidance (National laboratory testing indication guidance for COVID-19) was developed to facilitate national consistency in testing approaches across jurisdictions, while recognizing differing levels of COVID-19 activity, epidemiology of outbreaks and the respective laboratory testing systems in F/P/T jurisdictions in Canada.
 - Several jurisdictions have since undertaken asymptomatic pilot tests and studies and there is limited public health utility and case finding with broad asymptomatic testing, and some risk of false positives [also can potentially put pressure on reagent/swab supplies and HR capacity].
 - SAC is working on updating national testing indication guidance for PCR testing and also developing new interim guidance on rapid antigen testing technology
 - Working with PT partners on national testing and screening strategy and ramping up of testing capacity with Federal Safe Restart Agreement investments with PTs.

4. Presentation from CIRID on COVID-19 Vaccine

- Erin Henry and Matthew Tunis from PHAC's CIRID will now provide an overview of COVID-19 vaccine planning.
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